

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-19, 21-27, and 29-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-19, 21-27, and 29-36 are rejected. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims and consideration of the following remarks.

Rejections Based Upon 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

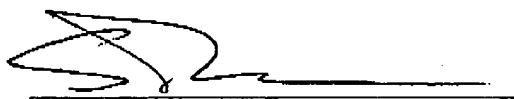
Claims 1, 5-9, 11, 12, 15-19, 23-27, 29, 30 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,137,800 (Wiley). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires, in part, a first interworking unit configured to receive voice-band communications and a first control message, determine if initial voice-band processing is required, perform the initial voice-band processing if required, convert the voice-band communications into asynchronous communications with an identifier *and with a processing indicator* indicating if the initial voice-band processing was performed, and transfer the asynchronous communications. Wiley fails to disclose a first interworking unit that converts voice-band communications into asynchronous communications with an identifier *and with a processing indicator* indicating if initial voice-band processing was performed. Rather, Wiley discloses a first interworking unit 202 operational to convert voice-band communications to asynchronous communications with an identifier. Wiley also discloses performing voice-band processing (digital signal processing), such as echo cancellation or continuity testing (Wiley, col. 12, lines 21-24 and col. 20, lines 3-13). However, the asynchronous communications of Wiley do not include a processing indicator indicating whether or not the voice-band processing was performed, as required by claim 1. Wiley also fails to teach or suggest including a processing indicator with the asynchronous communications. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Wiley.

Independent claims 11, 19, and 29 contain limitations similar to those of claim 1 and are therefore also allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as claim 1. The applicant refrains from a discussion of the dependent claims for the sake of brevity and in view of their dependence from otherwise allowable independent claims.

CONCLUSION

The claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. The applicant therefore solicits their allowance.



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Stephen S. Roche, Reg. No. 52,176
Setter Ollila LLC
Telephone: (303) 938-9999 ext. 15
Facsimile: (303) 938-9995

Correspondence address:

CUSTOMER NO. 28004

Attn: Harley R. Ball
6391 Sprint Parkway
Mailstop: KSOPHT0101-Z2100
Overland Park, KS 66251-2100